



**Name of Property:** Grant Cottage  
**City, State:** Moreau and Wilton, New York  
**Period of Significance:** June 16–July 23, 1885  
**NHL Criteria:** 1, 2  
**NHL Theme:** III Expressing Cultural Values  
3. literature  
**Previous Recognition:** 1971 National Register of Historic Places  
**National Historic Context:** *The Presidents of the United States: Historic Places*  
*Commemorating the Chief Executives of the United States* (1976)

**NHL Significance:**

- Grant Cottage is a residence located on the former grounds of the Hotel Belmont, which opened as the “Mountain House” in 1878. The cottage is the only surviving place in the United States where former President Ulysses S. Grant wrote *Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant*. Grant completed *Memoirs* at the cottage in the summer of 1885 before his death there on July 23. *Memoirs* became a landmark work of American publishing and literature, sold to hundreds of thousands of households under an innovative marketing plan devised by Grant’s publisher, Mark Twain, becoming the second best-selling book in nineteenth-century America. Civil War participants, historians, and critics have continuously recognized *Memoirs* as a primary text of the war, which has never been out of print. Over time, *Memoirs* has influenced generations of American

writers and memoirists through Grant's clear, direct, and conversational writing style.

- The story of *Memoirs*' creation is one of true American grit exemplifying Grant's personal courage and character. Impoverished, terminally ill, and physically weakening with the progression of each day, the former president and general raced death to complete *Memoirs* in order to provide an estate for his widow.

**Integrity:**

- Grant Cottage has a high degree of material integrity due to its continuous use as a museum since the period of significance. The property clearly evokes the brief period of Grant's occupancy in 1885 on the exterior and the first-floor interiors visited by the public. The second-floor rooms, although not open, also remain little changed.
- Physical alterations prompted by aging original finishes, maintenance, infrastructure updating, and compliance with ADA regulations typical of a building this age, have been introduced with great sensitivity. An architectural alteration to the interior plan consisting of an added partition on the second floor is reversible.
- Despite changes to the large institutional complex nearby, the cottage retains its important immediate forested setting and physical connection with the Eastern Outlook, with its panoramic views of the Saratoga Battlefield, used by Grant in 1885.

**Owner of Property:** State of New York

**Acreage of Property:** 9.9 acres

**Origins of Nomination:** Friends of Grant Cottage, an organization whose mission is the preservation and operation of the cottage as a historic site open to the public, initiated the National Historic Landmark nomination and hired a consultant with the support of a grant from the Nordlys Foundation. The nomination was prepared with the support of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation.

**Potential for Positive Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:**

- Designation as an NHL would broaden visitation to the property by recognizing Grant Cottage as a place closely associated with Ulysses S. Grant and his important contribution to American literature.
- Designation as an NHL would ensure the preservation and encourage appropriate development adjacent to Grant Cottage by elevating the property's historic value within the State of New York's management plans for State Historic Sites and State Parks.

**Potential for Negative Public Response or Reflection on NHL Program:** None is known.

**Public Comments Favoring Designation (received as of September 9, 2020):**

- Senator Charles Schumer – 8/28/2020
- Representative Elise M. Stefanik – 8/3/2020
- New York State Historic Preservation Office – 8/31/2020

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Comments:**

- Add some information to the nomination about comparable Presidential residences that have the same level of high integrity, especially with their interior furnishings.
- Identified issues regarding certain design elements, the location of the property, and some historical statements, which will be addressed in the revised nomination.

**National Historic Landmarks Committee Recommendation:**

The Committee recommends that the National Park System Advisory Board recommend to the Secretary of the Interior the designation of the Grant Cottage in Wilton, New York, as a National Historic Landmark, with any additions and corrections as noted by the Committee being made prior to the nomination being forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior for action.

**Advisory Board Recommendation:**